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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 15 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Zaire. The English text is attached.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 15 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Zaire

It is with great concern that the European Union has learned about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kisangani.

Once more this means that large groups of refugees have to move further without assistance of any kind being able to reach them. In addition this means further suffering for the Zairian population.

The European Union calls on all parties to the conflict in eastern Zaire to respect the lives of both refugees and Zairians.

The European Union, as the largest provider of humanitarian aid, urges all the parties involved to safeguard the humanitarian corridors that have just been opened by them in order to enable the delivery of the humanitarian assistance that is so urgently needed.

The European Union furthermore calls on all parties involved to look for ways and means to assist the large group of refugees, now concentrated near Ubundu, that cannot be reached under the present circumstances.

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